FinderIconCM 2.4

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What is FinderIconCM ?

FinderIconCM is a contextual menu plugin for Mac OS X. It let you copy/paste/clear/view icon(s) without opening Finder's **Get Info** dialog. It also allow you to store up 80 icons to its own stock and let you paste icon from the stock, and create a new icon by combining two icons.

Features

• It can handle multiple items (folders, files, volumes) with one operation.
• It can use PICT data in the clipboard for pasting even if there's no icon resource (icns) in the clipboard.
(this is a feature that you can not do from Finder's Get Info dialog)
• View mode is designed to help people learn Mac OS X icon design by looking other people's icon closely.
• When copying icon, it creates and copies 128x128 PICT data to clipboard in addition to icon data (icns)
• Icon stock can be used for storing up to 80 frequently used icons, and you can choose an icon from the stock to pasting it to the selected items.
• It can create a new icon by combining a base folder icon and the icon of the selected item. A newly created icon can be saved as a new folder, or can be copied to clipboard or icon stock.

Notice (Important)

• You can not change icon of special item like 'Application folder', 'Document folder', etc... with FinderIconCM. Of course, you can not do this even from Finder's Get Info dialog. So it's not a limitation of FinderIconCM but a design of Mac OS X and Finder. So don't send me an email to ask 'How to change such folders'. You maybe able to change icons of such special folders using some other software like CandyBar from www.iconfactory.com, (although I am not sure because I have never tried it).
• Also you can not change neither the items in the read only volume (e.g: CD-ROM) nor items that you do not have write permission.
• Currently FinderIconCM does not display any alert or error messages. For some rare errors, it shows error message to the Console. I will remove it with the future version.

Installation

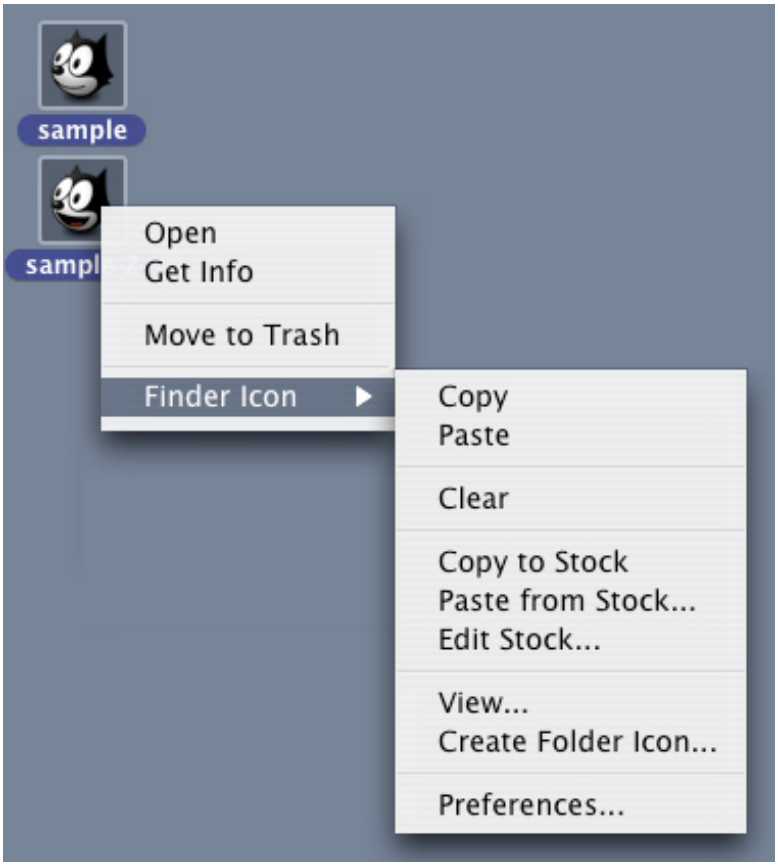
For your convenicence, simple AppleScript to install the FinderIconCM is enclosed. Just run the 'InstallFinderIconCM' script to install and follow the direction on the screen.

You can manually install the FinderIconCM by copying 'FinderIconCM.plugin' package to either '/

Library/Contextual Menu Items' folder or '~/Library/Contextual Menu Items' folder. If you don't have '~/Library/Contextual Menu Items' folder, simply create a new folder and copy it there. In this case, you need to either restart computer, or logout and login again, or restart the Finder to use the FinderIconCM.

How to use?

Choose any items (volume, folder, file) under the Finder and Control+Click the mouse to bring up the contextual menu. You will see 'FinderIcon' contextual menu item. When you move the mouse to this 'FinderIcon' menu, it shows submenus as you can see the picture below. Then select the feature you want to use from the submenu.



Copy

It copies icons of the selected item into the Clipboard as 'icns' and 'PICT' data. If multiple items are selected for copy operation, the last items icon data is copied to the clipboard. Basically, it's useless to select multiple items for copy operation with the current version of FinderIconCM.

Since copy operation does not have any visual change, it plays short sound.

Paste

It pastes icon data in the Clipboard to the selected items. Multiple item can be choosen for this operaton.

Clear

It clears the custom icon from selected items. Multiple item can be choosen for this operation.

Copy to Stock

It copies the icon of selected items into the icon stock. (see next section for icon stock)

Paste from Stock...

It opens a icon stock dialog and let you choose an icon from the stock, then paste the icon to selected items. (see next section for icon stock) This menu does not apprear if there's no icon stock.

Edit Stock...

It opens a icon stock dialog and let you edit the stock. (see next section for icon stock) This menu does not appear if there's no icon stock.

View...

It opens a dialog and let you see detail of the selected item's icon.

Create Folder Icon...

It opens a create folder icon dialog and let you create a new icon by combining base folder icon and the icon of the selected item. A newly created icon can be saved as a new folder, or can be copied to clipboard or icon stock.

Preferences...

It opens a Preferences dialog and let you set some preference options.

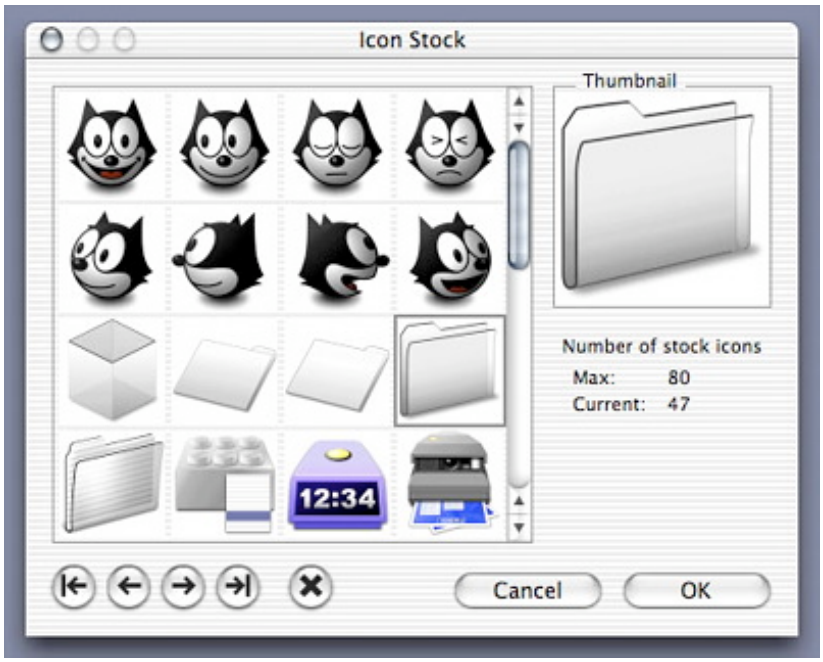
How to use (2) Icon Stock

FinderIconCM has a capability to store up to 80 icons to its own storage called 'Icon Stock'. You can store frequently used icons to the icon stock and use it repeatedly and easily as necessary. Since the number of icons in the stock is limited (max 80), it's not suitable for icon archiving purpose for icon collectors. As I said, it's designed for storing frequently used icons. So if you are looking for icon archiving solution, check out other software :-)

To store icons to the icon stock, select them at Finder and select '**Copy to Stock**' submenu from FinderIconCM's context menu. Until you copy at least one icon to icon stock, 'Paste from Stock' and 'Edit Stock' menu will not appear. So do not worry about missing menu. It will apear when you copy icons to the icon stock.

When you select either 'Paste from Stock...' or 'Edit Stock...' submenu item, the icon stock window appears on the screen and let you choose/edit the icons in the stock. The picture below is the icon stock window with editing buttons.

When you select '**Paste from Stock...**' menu, the same window is opened but no editing buttons and editiing capabitily. All you can do is choose the icon you want to paste from the stock and click **OK** button. As you can see in the later Note section, pasting a new icon to files/folers which already has custom icon attached does not change the icon immediately. So I recommend that you clear the custom icons from the target file/folder first before pasting new icon to them. This is not a bug but the current Finder's behavior (or Finder's bug). So FinderIconCM has no control over this issue.



When you select '**Edit Stock...**' menu, the icon stock window with editing buttons appears on the screen (see above). You can delete, arrange icons in the stock using five edit buttons or keyboard. To select multiple icons in the list for moving/deleting, use Shift-key or Command-key when you select icons by mouse click.
(You can not add icons here. To add icons you need to use 'Copy to Stock' menu instead).

Move to the top

It moves the selected icon(s) to the top of the icon stock.
Shift + Left arrow key does the same thing.

Move forward

It moves the selected icon(s) one position forward.
Left arrow key does the same thing.

Move backward

It moves the selected icon(s) one position backward.
Right arrow key does the same thing.

Move to the end

It moves the selected icon(s) to the end.
Shift + Right arrow key does the same thing.

Delete

It delete the selected icon(s) from the icon stock.
Delete (BS) key does the same thing.

To scroll the list you can use scroll bar as well as **wheel mouse**. Also following keyboard operation can

be used for scrolling the list.

Up arrow key	Scroll up
Down arrow key	Scroll down
Shift + Up arrow key	Scroll to the Top
Shift + Down arrow key	Scroll to the End

When you finished editing click **OK** button to save the changes. To discard the changes and finish editing, click **Cancel** button.

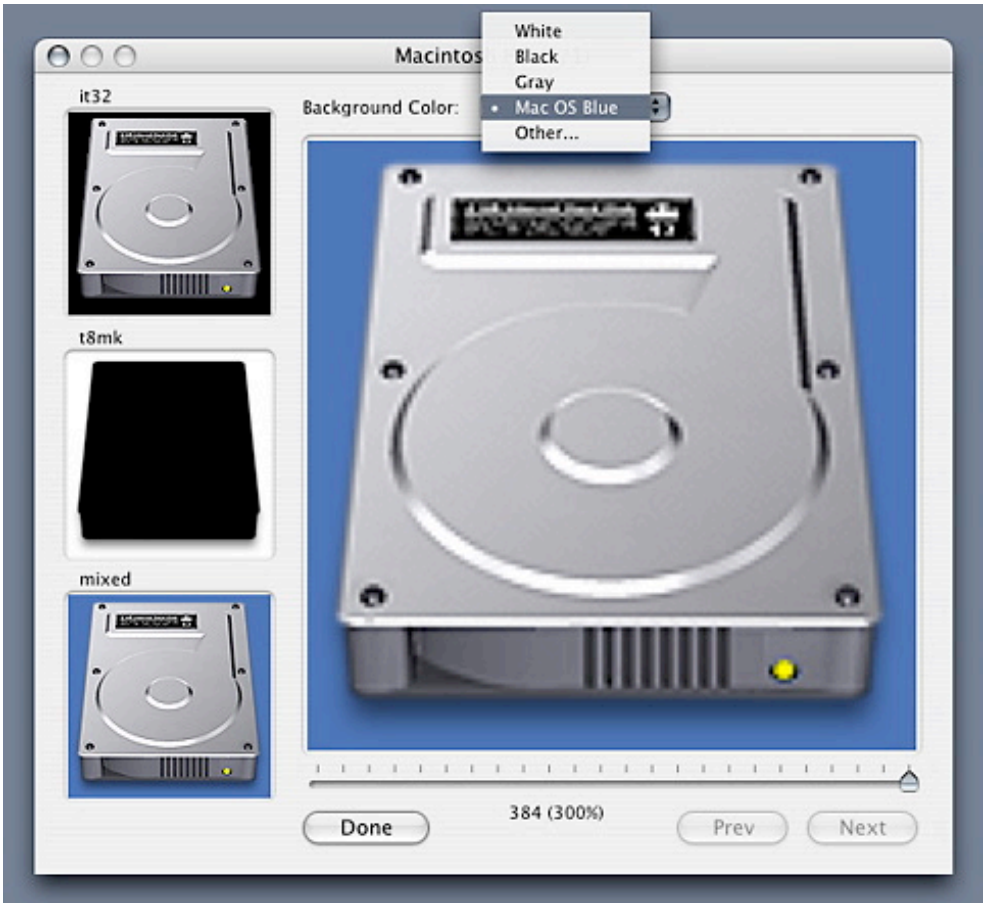
Currently, you can not select multiple icons, and it does not support drag and drop editing. These are to do items for the future version.

Technical Info (Icon Stock File)

Icon stock is created as a file under your Preferences folder with the name 'com.pixture.FinderIconCM.stock'. This is standard resource file and it has all icons in the stock as 'icns' resources. If you want to use the same icon stock with your other computers, just copy this file to your Preferences folder of such computers. FinderIconCM immediately recognize it and start using it once it's copied. Generally, the file size is about 3MB with max 80 icons (each icon occupy about 40KB as an average).

How to use (3) Viewing icons

When you select '**View...**' submenu item, a window (see below) appears on the screen and display the icon of the first item. The title bar of the window shows the item name, current number and total number of items you have selected.



As you see, it shows three images: icon image (it32), mask image (t8mk) and mixed image that you would actually see under the Finder. You can switch the enlarged area view by clicking each image in the left. As default, it shows the enlarged image of the mixed image. By using the slider below or **Wheel mouse**, you can change the size of the image from 16x16 to 384 x 384 pixel in 2 pixel step.

Background Color pulldown menu
let you select a background color for displaying mixed image. You can choose either one of white, black, gray, Mac OS blue, or any color using the color picker.

Next button
go to the next icon

Prev button
go to the previous icon

Finish button
Exit from FinderIconCM

Like my QuickImageCM, you can operate view mode using keyboard as well (except for switching three image type to be shown in enlarged area)

Arrow keys (cursor keys)

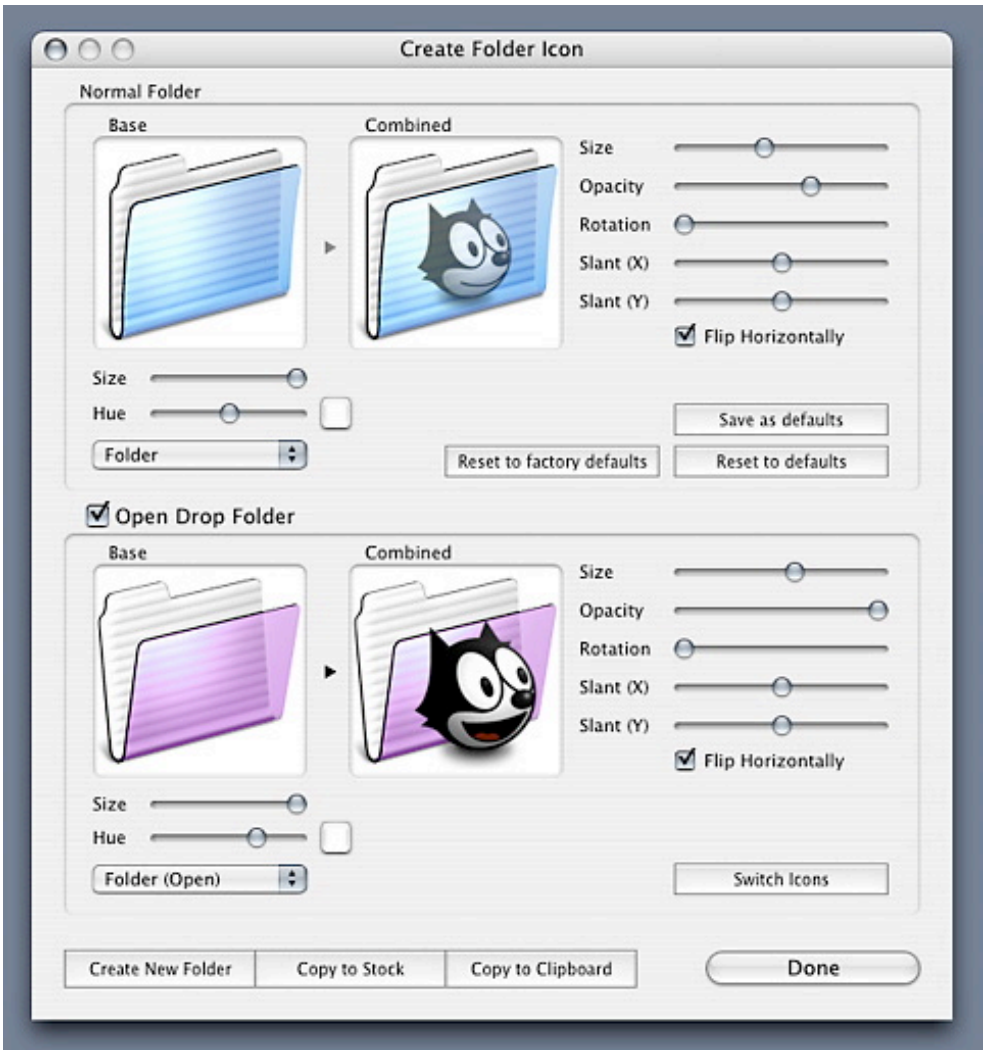
Left arrow	go to previous icon
Right arrow	go to next icon
Up arrow	go to previous image
Down arrow	go to next image

* If you press these keys while holding **shift-key**, then it move to first/last icon.

Esc
Exit the operation and go back to Finder.

How to use (4) Create Folder Icon

When you select '**Create Folder Icon...**' submenu item, a window (see below) appears on the screen and let you create a new icon by combining a base folder icon and the icon of the selected item. A newly created icon can be saved as a new folder, or can be copied to clipboard or icon stock by pressing the corresponding bevel button on the window.



There are two icon area for each icon state. The left one is the base folder icon and the right one is the combination of the icon of the selected item (object icon) and the base folder icon.

For the base folder icon, you can select one of 17 generic icons (folder, hard disk, document icons...) using the pull-down menu below the icon area.
You can also change the size and position of the base icon using slider control and mouse drag. The size of base icon ranges 64x64(minimum) to 128x128(maximum). In addition to this, you can add overlay color and change the hue of the base icon using the slider and the color button. For overlay color, you can choose any color using the color picker. Since changing the hue of the monotone base icon like hard disk icon or standard document icon would not change anything, you might want to add overlay color first to make them colorized.

For the object icon (the icon of the selected item), you can be changed its size, position, opacity, rotation, XY slant and horizontal flip. For changing size, you can use either slider control or wheel mouse. To change the position of the object icon, move the mouse to inside the icon area and you will see the mouse cursor is changed to open hand cursor. Then dragging mouse will move the object icon. You can use arrow keys to move the object icon too. The size of object icon ranges from 16x16 (minimum) to 160x160 (maximum), the opacity ranges from 0% (transparent) to 100% (opaque), the rotation ranges from 0 to 360 degree, and the XY slant ranges from -45 to 45 degree (initial value is 0).

Second section is called 'Open Drop Folder' and this is the icon that is displayed only when items are dragged onto the folder icon. This is optional and you do not have to create open drop folder icon. To add open drop folder icon, check the check box then you can edit open drop folder icon just like the nomarl folder icon. You can change the size, position and form of the object icon for each state (normal and open drop states).
If you select more than two icons at the Finder and invoke this function, the first icon is used for the object icon of the normal folder icon, and the second icon is used for the object icon of the open/drop folder icon. You can also exchange these two icons by pressing 'Switch Icons' button.
If you do not check the check box for open drop folder icon group, the output icon data would not have open drop folder icon and this is not a problem at all. Use open drop folder icon option if you want to enjoy the animation of folder.

To change the size or position of these four icons, you can move the mouse cursor in the target icon area and then use wheel mouse (to change size) or drag icon (to change position). As you change the size, position, and other parameters of icons, you will see a tooltip displayed above the target icon area with the current settings value.

There are three buttons in the normal folder group box. They are used to store the current settings as defaults (Save as defaults), or reset the current setting to last saved defaults (Reset to defaults) or the factory defaults (Reset to factory defaults). Please be sure that using 'Reset to defaults' or 'Reset to factory defaults' will change the current settings but not the default settings. Default settings can be changed only by 'Save as defaults' button.

A new icon (combined icon) can be either saved as a new folder or copied to clipboard or icon stock. When you press '**Create New Folder**' button, the new icon will be saved as a new folder named 'Untitled' to either the location same as original or always desktop. Both folder name and location can be changed in the Preferences dialog. If a folder with the same file name already exist, the numbering will be automatically added to the folder name like 'Untitled 1', 'Untitled 2'.... to avoid duplicate name error. Besides, if the selected item is a volume, then the new folder will be created under desktop.
To finish the operation and return to the Finder, press '**Done**' button or window's close box.

Note (Important)

Finder's bug or what?

You may notice that sometimes icon image of the item will not change after you paste different icon image to it. Typical case is that you paste a new icon to a file or folder which has already had custom icon. In such case, **removing icons first and then pasting new icon usually solve this problem**. But sometimes still it won't update the icon to a new image until you restart the Finder or you logout/login again. I guess this is something to do with Finder's design or bug. Finder seems to cache icon data and use it for displaying icon. This prevents Finder from updating icon image to a new icon image under some circumstanses. I hope this issue will be addressed in the future version of Mac OS X and Finder. Anyway, if you don't see the new icon image after paste new icon image, you will see the new image next time you login. Of course, as I mentioned earlier in this document, you can not change icon of some special items like 'Application folder' or items that you don't have write access permission. So this is nothing to do with Finder. It's just a design of Mac OS X and Finder.
Even if you can not see the newly pasted icon image due to this Finder's strange behavier, FinderIconCM let's you view or copy the newly pasted icon image. This means that you will see the different icon image under Finder and FinderIconCM's view mode. Some icon tools does it too and some don't depending on how it's programed. So do not confuse. If you confuse, then relogin to the system. ;-)

A bit more technical infomartion

• FinderIconCM copy/paste/clear custom icon file/resource if it exists. If not, it uses generic icon (e.g.

standard folder icon) prepaired by Mac OS X. If such generic icons are used for copy/paste operation, FinderIconCM generate 'icns' data and put only 'it32' (128x128 32bit icon image) and 't8mk' (128x128 8bit deep mask). It does not generate any other small size icon image into 'icns' data.

• When clearing the custom icon, it removes not only 'icns' data but also any legacy icon data like 'ICN#', 'icl8'...

• If the selected item has custom icon 'icns' data, but if it's missing 'it32' and 't8mk', FinderIconCM can copy icon data to clipboard but no PICT data would be generated and copied to the Clipboard. It does not hurt the basic operation at all. Only the disadvantage is that you can not see the image when you open the Clipboard. Under Mac OS X, most custom icons have at least 'it32' and 't8mk' so this is very rare case and it may occur if you work on the custom icons from Classic Mac OS.

Version history

2.4 (12/19/2004)
- Following changes/improvements have been done to the 'Create Folder Icon' function.
  * Added 'Save as Defaults', 'Reset to Defaults' and 'Reset to Factory Defaults' buttons.
  * Overlay color and Hue settings are added as optional settings for the base folder icons.
- Following changes/improvements have been done to the 'View Icon' function.
  * Now background color can be changed (white, black, gray, Mac OS blue or other...)
  * Size of the enlarged icon display has been changed from 4 to 2 dot step.
  * Enlarged icon display is now done by Quartz 2D instead of jaggy QuickDraw.

2.3 (12/1/2004)
- Fixed a bug that crashes the Finder upon exit from Create Folder Icon and View Icon function.
- Following changes has been made to the 'Create Folder Icon' function
  * When more than 2 icons are selected from the Finder, the first icon is used for the object icon of the normal folder, and the second icon is used for the object icon for the open/drop folder.
  * Added 'Switch Icon' button to switch object icons of normal folder and open/drop folder.
  * Now changing icon size with wheel mouse and moving icons with arrow key works for the icon that is currently under the mouse cursor. So you can change the size and position of any of them by moving the mouse cursor onto the target icon first.
  * Now changing icon attribute (size, position, form) will display the tooptip with the current setting value above the target icon area.
  * Added support for closing the window using ESC, Q, or W key.
  * Object icon size can be enlarged up to 160x160 dot. (The max size of base folder icon stays the same, which is 128x128 dot)

2.2 (5/25/2004)
- Following changes has been made to the 'Create Folder Icon' function
  * Added support for open/drop state folder
  * Added rotation, XY slant and horizontal flip transformation options
  * Now you can change size and position of base folder icon (size ranges 64 to 128)
  * Increase the number of base folder icon from 8 to 17.
  * Now you can move icons beyond the 128x128 area.
  * Improved and fixed the problem of handling image mask and transparency.
  * Fixed a bug that crashes Finder after creating a new folder

2.1 - Never released -

2.0 (5/20/2004)
- Added 'Create Folder Icon' function, which creates a new folder icon by combining two icons.
- Added 'Preferences...' dialog. Now you can turn on/off the sound for invisible operations.
- Now editing icon stok with stock icon window supports multiple icon selection.
- Changed the specification of deleting stock icon. (unselect icons after deleting them)
- Fixed minor bugs

1.3 (5/13/2004)
- Finally, it's compatible with Panther (10.3x)
- Icon stock window and icon view window now have close box.

1.2 (6/12/2003)
- Icon stock feature is added (Copy to Stock, Paste from Stock, Edit Stock menu are added). Icon stock can store up to 80 icons so that you can use frequently used icons easily.
- Wheel mose support is added. It can be used for enlarging/reducing view size (in View window) or scrolling icon stock list (in Icon Stock window).
- Some minor bug has been fixed.

1.1 (5/12/2003)
- it32 thumbnail icon resource format has been changed from uncompressed to TIFF packbit compressed.
- When viewing icon, if the Finder is not the frontmost process, it switches the Finder to front and show the view window. Then, it restores to the original process to front when viewing is done.
- Disable/enable 'Prev' and 'Next' button depending on current item number and total number of items to view.
- When viewing multiple item's icons, keep a window open and inherit scale and other settings when switching to next/prev icons.

1.0 (5/10/2003)
- Original version

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Special Thanks To

Abracode Inc <www.abracode.com> and Contextual Menu Workshop
- nice framework for OS X cmm plugin development.